

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, CI
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL CONVENED THE MEETING AT 10:00 THIS MORNING. IN ADDITION TO THE CHANCELLOR, THE CHILEAN SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPUTY MINISTER VALDES, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR MONTERO, CNI (FORMERLY DINA) HEAD GENERAL MENA, AND LAWYER MIGUEL SCHWEITZER. ON OUR SIDE IN ADDITION TO MYSELF WERE DCM BOYATT, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY PROPPER AND ALFREDO ETCHEBERRY, OUR CHILEAN LAWYER.

2. CARVAJAL BEGAN BY STATING THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN CONVOKED IN RESPONSE TO MY REPRESENTATIONS OF YESTERDAY, THE BASIC POINT OF WHICH WAS THAT THE U.S. VIEW OF CHILEAN COOPERATION DEPENDED ON THE GOC'S PRESENTING TOWNLEY FOR QUESTIONING. CARVAJAL NOTED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD ORDERED THE GOC TO PURSUE A CLARIFICATION OF THE LETELIER AFFAIR NO MATTER WHERE IT LED AND TO OFFER ALL COOPERATION TO THIS END. HE THEN ASKED CNI CHIEF MENA TO PROCEED WITH THE DISCUSSIONS.

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3. MENA REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF HIS VARIOUS MEETINGS WITH PROPPER AND FBI AGENTS, UNDERLINING THAT THE GOC HAD BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE -- FIRST BY MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THERE WERE FOUR PERSONS (NOT TWO) WHO HAD AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER USED THE ALIASES WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL, THEN BY PROVIDING THREE OF THE FOUR PERSONS THAT HAD USED THESE ALIASES (RIVEROS, MOSQUEIRA AND FERNANDEZ) FOR INFORMAL AND FORMAL QUESTIONING, AND FINALLY BY MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO FIND TOWNLEY.

HE SAID THAT ONLY YESTERDAY THE GOC HAD LEARNED FROM TOWNLEY'S WIFE THAT TOWNLEY HAD ENGAGED A CHILEAN LAWYER AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THAT LAWYER LATER TODAY IN ORDER TO URGE HIM TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONVINCE TOWNLEY TO GIVE HIMSELF UP. MENA SAID THAT HE HAD EVERY HOPE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE TOWNLEY AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONING.

4. I RESPONDED TO THIS IN VERY FRANK AND DIRECT TERMS STATING THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE GOC HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE TOWNLEY, MUCH LESS HIS LAWYER, DURING THE WEEK SINCE ATTORNEY PROPPER'S ARRIVAL. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION NEITHER THE CARABINEROS NOR INVESTIGACIONES HAD BEEN ALERTED TO FIND TOWNLEY NOR HAD MEASURES, SUCH AS PUBLISHING TOWNLEY'S PICTURE IN VARIOUS MEDIA, BEEN TAKEN. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I FOUND GOC CLAIMS OF TOTAL COOPERATION HOLLOW AT BEST. I UNDERLINED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL AND I WERE WORKING NOT ONLY TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE LETELIER CASE, BUT TO MAINTAIN US/GOC RELATIONS ON EVEN KEEL. THESE ENDS COULD ONLY BE SERVED IF THE GOC PRODUCED TOWNLEY, WHO WAS THE KEY TO THE LETELIER CASE.

5. MENA BRISTLED AT MY REMARKS WHICH PRODUCED A GREAT DEAL OF HEMMING AND HAWING ON THE PART OF THE OTHER CHILEAN OFFICIALS PRESENT. EACH OF THEM MADE THE POINT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THAT THE GOC HAD, IN FACT, COOPERATED WITH THE USG ON THIS INVESTIGATION. THIS LED TO A DISCUSSION OF HOW PROPPER WOULD CHARACTERIZE HIS VISIT ON HIS RETURN TO THE U.S. SCHWEITZER SAID THAT IF PROPPER
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CHARACTERIZED HIS MISSION AS "DISAPPOINTING", THIS WOULD BE CONTRADICTORY TO THE FACTS AND DISASTROUS. SCHWEITZER SAID THAT THE GOC HAD ALLOWED THE U.S. TO QUESTION RIVEROS AND MOSQUEIRA INFORMALLY, THEY HAD SHOWED US INFORMALLY SEVERAL IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS, THEY WERE PREPARED TO ALLOW U.S. OFFICIALS TO QUESTION FERNANDEZ, AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO LOCATE TOWNLEY. AT A MINIMUM, FAIR PLAY REQUIRED PROPPER TO STATE THAT THERE HAD BEEN SERIOUS COOPERATION EVEN THOUGH THE U.S. HAD NOT YET QUESTIONED TOWNLEY.

6. LEAVING NO DOUBT IN THE CHILEANS' MINDS THAT THEIR PRODUCING TOWNLEY REMAINED THE KEY TO EVERYTHING, WE AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR PROPPER TO AVOID CHARACTERIZING HIS MISSION NEGATIVELY. PROPPER COULD SAY THAT HIS VISIT TO CHILE HAD PRODUCED SOME PROGRESS, THAT THE GOC HAD STILL NOT PRESENTED TOWNLEY WHOSE RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS IN THE LETTERS ROGATORY WAS CRITICAL, BUT THAT PROPPER WAS PREPARED TO RETURN TO CHILE AS SOON AS THE GOC MADE TOWNLEY AVAILABLE.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL THEN SAID THAT ALL MAJOR U.S. MEDIA WERE DEALING WITH THE LETELIER CASE ON A BASIS WHICH ALREADY PREJUDGED THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT'S GUILT. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS

TOTALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND ONLY PROVIDED AMMUNITION FOR THOSE IN THE GOC WHO DID NOT WISH TO COOPERATE AT ALL WITH THE U.S. ON THIS MATTER. I RESPONDED BY STATING THAT IT WAS MUCH EASIER FOR THE GOC TO PRODUCE TOWNLEY THAN IT WAS FOR ME TO CONTROL THE U.S. PRESS. THE FASTEST ROUTE TO A POSITIVE MEDIA IMAGE WAS FOR THE GOC TO PRODUCE TOWNLEY AND COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY IN SEEING THAT JUSTICE WAS DONE IN THIS CASE.

8. FOLLOWING THE MEETING I STAYED BEHIND TO TALK TO CARVAJAL ON ANOTHER MATTER (SEPTTEL) AND URGED HIM TO "READ THE RIOT ACT" TO THE SECURITY SERVICES WHO OBVIOUSLY HAD BEEN DRAGGING THEIR FEET, SINCE THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN COOPERATION FROM THEM. CARVAJAL APPRECIATED THE COLLOQUIALISM AND ASSURED ME HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LETELIER CASE.

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